

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 remain in this application. Claims 1-19 have been allowed. Claim 20 currently stands rejected under 35 USC section 112, and has been amended herein.

Claim 20 currently stands rejected for two instances of lack of sufficient antecedent basis (for the terms "the improvement" and "the routing node") and one unclear phrase ("a routing"). The current amendments address these issues.

The phrase "the improvement" is replaced with "the method" and the beginning of the claim is amended to make clear that a method is being claimed. The phrase "a routing" is amended to "a routing node," rendering the phrase clearer and providing antecedent basis for the later recitation of "the routing node." These changes are believed to address all the section 112 objections noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 20 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should applicant be in error, applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Gregory V. Bean at 607-974-2698

Respectfully submitted,



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Gregory V. Bean
Attorney for Assignee
Registration Number: 36,448
Corning Incorporated
SP-TI-03-1
Corning, NY 14831
Phone: 607-974-2698